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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00

PPT-02 SCA-01 L-03 INRE-00 H-03 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01 DRC-01 /079 W
---------- 027428
O 151350Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8808
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7247

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR PFOR CPAS CGEN (SULSKIENE, JARIJA)
SUBJECT: SULSKIENE/KUDIRKA CASE

1. AS OF 1700 LOCAL MAY 15 EMBASSY HAD NO CONTACT WITH OR COMMUNICATION FROM MRS. SULSKIENE OR MOSCOW CONTACT KOVALEV. LATTER, SAID TO BE ONE OF THREE EDITORS OF MOST RECENT ISSUE OF CHRONICLE OF CURRENT EVENTS, WAS REPORTED BY A SOVIET SOURCE TO BE "TRAVELING ABOUT SOVIET UNION ON WORK."

2. CONSOFF LEONARD WILLEMS IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR VILNIUS BY AIR LATE MORNING MAY 16. HE WILL JOIN UP WITH LENINGRAD CONSOFF BLAKEBURN LATER THAT DAY TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH MRS. SULSKIENE, HOPEFULLY EVENING SAME DAY. TELEX IS BEING SENT TO MRS. SULSKIENE CARE OF LOCAL POST OFFICE ALERTING HER TO VISIT. NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO TELEX SENT HER MAY 14.

3. AT NOON MAY 15 MFA PROTOCOL DIVISION OFFICER INDICATED TO EMBOFF RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAVEL THAT WILLEMS TRAVEL TO VILNIUS APPEARED TO RAISE NO PROBLEM. MFA OFFICIAL SAID HE WOULD ADVISE IF ANY QUESTION AROSE.

4. AFTERNOON MAY 15 CONSULAR SECTION CALLED WITH WILLEMS ON MFA USA DIVISION COUNSELOR TRIFONOV, AND INDICATED WILLEMS AND CONSOFF BLAKEBURN FROM LENINGRAD WOULD BE TRAVELING TO
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VILNIUS MAY 16 TO VISIT MRS. SULSKIENE. EMBOFFS DESCRIBED

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NATURE OF CASE AND MRS. SULSKIENE AS MOTHER TO
SIMAS KUDIRKA. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT THAT MRS. SULSKIENE HAD RE-
PORTEDLY BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO MOSCOW TO
EMBASSY, WHICH CONSTITUTED APPARENT VIOLATION OF CONSULAR
CONVENTION. THEREFORE CONSOFFS WOULD BE TRAVELING TO VILNIUS,
AND EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

5. TRIFONOV INTERJECTED THAT MATTER APPEARED TO BE STRICTLY
CONSULAR, AND WAS NOT OF CONCERN TO HIM. WHEN CONSOFFS EMPHA-
SIZED INTEREST OF USG AND AMERICAN PEOPLE IN KUDIRKA AND BY
EXTENSION HIS MOTHER, TRIFONOV SAID SOVIET POSITION IS THAT
KUDIRKA IS "CRIMINAL" AND HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY DEALT WITH
BY SOVIET JUSTICE. ANY COMMENT BY US ON CASE IS "INTERFERENCE
IN INTERNAL SOVIET AFFAIRS." TRIFONOV ALSO QUESTIONED CLAIM
THAT ACCESS TO EMBASSY HAD BEEN DENIED OR INTERFERED WITH. HE
SPECULATED MRS. SULSKIENE MAY HAVE FALLEN "SICK" ON DAY IN
QUESTION. ON SPECIFIC QUESTION WHETHER CONSOFFS COULD TRAVEL
TO VISIT HER, TRIFONOV SAID THAT QUESTION WAS FOR PROTOCOL
DIVISION TO DECIDE. AT CONCLUSION OF TWENTY MINUTE SESSION
TRIFONOV ACCEPTED COPY OF WILLEMS' TRAVEL NOTE AND NAME AND
ADDRESS OF MRS. SULSKIENE. CONSOFFS LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT
DESPITE HIS ARGUMENTATION HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD SENSITIVITY OF CASE
FOR US-SOVIET RELATIONS AT THIS TIME.

6. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED TELEGRAM MAY 15 FROM CONGRESSMAN HANRAHAN
REQUESTING EMBASSY FACILITATE COLLECT CALL BY MRS. SULSKIENE
TO "GRAZYNA" WHEN FORMER "ARRIVES AT EMBASSY THIS WEEK."
HANRAHAN ASKS THAT IF MRS. SULSKIENE DOES NOT APPEAR AT
EMBASSY EFFORTS BE MADE TO LOCATE HER "AS I KNOW SHE HAS LEFT
HER HOME IN LITHUANIA TO COME TO EMBASSY." DEPT REQUESTED TO

INFORM CONGRESSMAN OF PLANS DESCRIBED THIS MESSAGE.
STOESSEL

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